

Middle Village Community Meeting
June 2, 2004 - 5:00 p.m.
Maehnowesekiyah

Legislators Present: Gary Besaw and Joan Delabreau.

Legislators Absent: Ann Marie Johnson.

Community Members Present: Fay Annamitta, Richard Annamitta, Brian Tepiew and Brianne Tepiew.

Gary Besaw called the meeting to order at 5:13 p.m.

Chairman Besaw opened the floor for any issues or concerns the community people present want to discuss.

- Sundance in Middle Village-Richard and Fay Annamitta discussed their concerns with a Sundance being held annually in Middle Village. Richard stated that he went to the Lakota reservation and spoke to the people about one of their tribal members coming here and performing the ceremony as a medicine man. Richard found out that the man isn't even a medicine man and is using his brother's name. Fay stated that around five years ago a group of Menominee went to the Menominee Tribal Legislature asking for permission to use the land in Middle Village. Fay would like to know if it is a standing motion or if it was supposed to be a one time thing. Fay and Richard stated that they attended the Sundance last year and were appalled. They said that there were only a couple of Menominee there and the majority present was non-Native people. One of the biggest concerns is that the Non-Native people were holding and dancing with eagle feathers which happens to go against federal law. Richard stated that the Sundance was never part of the Menominee ways. The Annamitta's would like Conservation to monitor the ceremony which is held every year in the middle of July and would like the Legislature to look into the issue. Joan Delabreau stated that she will look to see if a motion was passed. Gary Besaw stated that we can't tell people what religion to practice because it will cause a lot of problems. Richard and Fay stated that they don't want to interfere in people's beliefs but they would like to see that things are done right and that there isn't any federal law violations going on either. Gary Besaw and Joan Delabreau said they would look into the issue.
- Security-Brianne Tepiew stated that after the last community meeting she had put her dog outside for the night and sometime in the middle of the night someone came into her yard and beat up her dog. The dog was severely injured and had to be put to sleep. Brianne would like to know if there is any funding anywhere to pay for security fences. Brianne stated that she is also sick of everything in her yard being vandalized and is upset because she is unable to buy the things she wants for her kids because it will get destroyed. Joan Delabreau informed Brianne that she needs to contact Housing and ask them if there is any money available for fencing, if they can't pay for the whole thing can they help pay for it or if maybe they can purchase the materials for Brianne at a discounted price.
- Police-Brian Tepiew stated that a lot of the damage happens because there aren't any police officers around. When they are called they don't do their job. Brian stated that he had left a car by his daughters house and some kids broke the windshield. The police came and when Brian asked for the names of the kids that did the damage, the officer said he couldn't reveal the names of juveniles. Brian waited and wanted to find out the outcome of the situation

and when he contacted the Police Department they informed him that no report was ever made so there is nothing on file. Brian was upset because now he can't go after the parents of the kids because he doesn't know what the names of the kids were. Brian stated that the victims are always the ones who have to pay. Gary and Joan stated that Housing was looking into offering a low rent or rent free home to an officer with the understanding that they must respond to the calls in Middle Village.

- Youth Center-Brianne stated that there is a need for a youth center. Maybe if there was a place for the kids to hang out they wouldn't get into so much trouble. Joan stated that it's a good idea and maybe look into using the fire station for some activities instead of busing the kids to either Neopit or Keshena.
- Public Beach by Legend Lake Lodge needs the grass mowed-Brian stated that one of his friends brought the concern up because many of the area kids swim there. Joan and Gary stated that the youth workers will be starting soon and that's when a lot of work gets done.
- Getting Land to Build a House-Brian stated that he went to Land Use because he is thinking about building a new house and they showed him the spots where he could build and didn't like them because they are all in either Middle Village or Keshena and he doesn't want to be in a heavily populated area. Brian named some places he was interested in and wants to know why he is not able to build a house there. Joan informed Brian that he should ask to be put on the next Community Development Committee agenda to address the issue.
- Why isn't there a Tribal Gas Station?-Brian wants to know why the Tribe doesn't have a gas station where tribal members can get the tax free gas like the mill sells. Gary and Joan informed Brian that the tribe is still working on the Convenience Store issue and it would cost the tribe 1.6 million dollars to start it up. Right now we are applying for grants to help with the cost.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.
Respectfully Submitted by
Legislative Staff Services